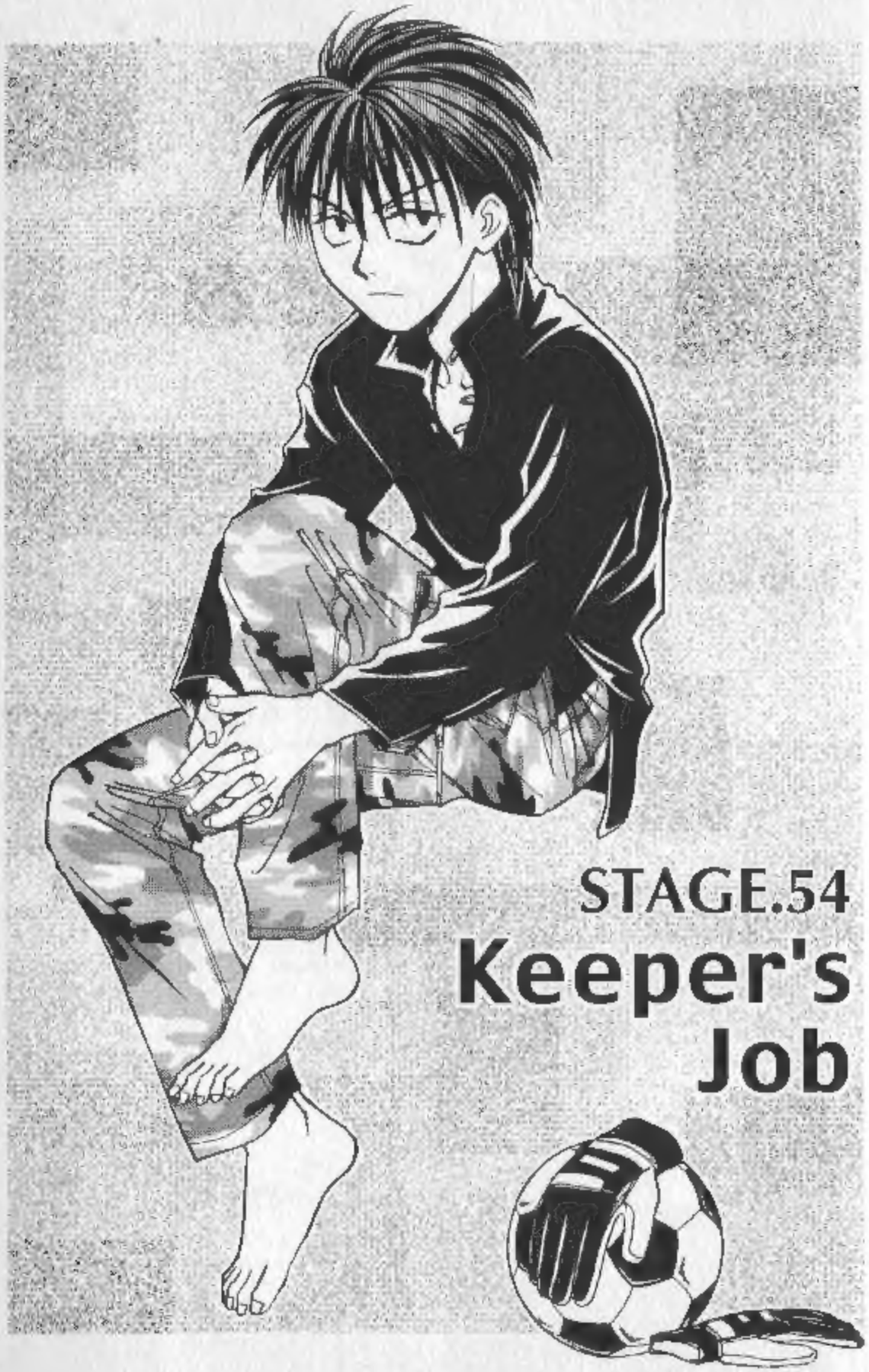
WHISTLE!

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

Story & Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

volume 7



STAGE.54
Keeper's Job

Vol. 7
STEP BY STEP

STAGE.54
Keeper's Job
7

STAGE.55
Weakness
28

STAGE.56
Everlasting Passion (STEP BY STEP)
48

STAGE.57
Key Is Locked
67

STAGE.58
Nightmare of the Last Five Minutes
87

STAGE.59
What It Means to Be a Teammate
105

STAGE.60
On Happiness
127

STAGE.61
Time to Go
149

STAGE.62
Stoppage Time
171

LET DAICHI BE. IF HE WANTS TO PLAY, I'M SURE HE'LL SHOW UP.

TUMP

DAICHI ISN'T SHOWING UP?

COURSE NOT, HIROYOSHI!

IS IT MY FAULT?

MASATO!

BESIDES, THE FACT HE KEPT SHOWING UP AT *ALL* WAS A SURPRISE TO ME.

MAYBE HE LOST INTEREST IN PLAYING AFTER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.

SO THIS IS *THE* MUSASHINOMORI, HUH...?

SWISH

I GET HIROYOSHI'S POINT, BUT I CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH DAICHI, TOO...

HIROYOSHI...

DAICHI JUST CAN'T RELATE TO HOW *LOUSY* PLAYERS FEEL.

...BUT...

...I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG. I MAY BE A LOUSY PLAYER, BUT I'M DOING MY BEST.

DOOOM

HMM? WHERE'S TAKAHASHI?

HE PROBABLY WENT TO THE JOHN.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

CHATTER CHATTER

...OR I'LL PUT YOU TO SLEEP FOR REAL.

YOUR CHOICE.

YOU CAN EITHER PRETEND TO SLEEP ...

SKRNCH

RUSTLE

GOOD DECISION.

BONK

SIT TIGHT, I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC.

MRRFF MGGH!

MRRFF!

ALL TAPED UP. DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME.

!

IT'S BIG. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

BUT YOU CAN'T GO IN UNLESS YOU'RE ON THE TEAM.

TOK TOK TOK

WHERE? IF YOU'RE ASKING WHERE THEY PRACTICE, IT'S OVER THERE.

WHERE'S YER SOCCER TEAM?

PAT

BUT THAT'LL MAKE IT EASY TO SNEAK IN.

LOTSA PLAYERS, COMPARED WITH JOSUI.

CHATTER CHATTER

POOT

...NO. 9 WILL SHOOT.

NO. 11 IS JUST A DECOY AND...

SINCE THE COACHES ARE GONE, WE'LL TRY A RED-AND-WHITE SCRIMMAGE TODAY.

SECOND AND THIRD-TIER SUBS WILL WATCH THE MATCH. I'M GOING TO ASK YOU ABOUT IT LATER, SO PAY ATTENTION.

REGULAR PLAYERS ARE WHITE, AND THE FIRST-TIER SUBS WILL BE RED. I'LL PLAY GOAL FOR RED.

THAT'S *THE* KATSURŌ, HUH...

TWEE

SINCE NO ONE'S SAYING ANYTHING....
I GUESS IT'S OKAY.

HE HASN'T SHOWN ME ANYTHING I COULDN'T DO.

ON A TECHNICAL LEVEL, I'M JUST AS GOOD.

KATSURŌ IS CONSIDERED A SUPER-STAR GOAL-KEEPER.

HOLD ON! I'LL DO IT!

YOU GUYS HAVE A SUB READY?

WHITE'S KEEPER JUST GOT NAILED.

WHUMP

YET OUR DEFENDERS PREFER SHIGEKI OVER ME. WHAT GIVES?

WHUMP

TSK. HE READ THAT ONE.

YOU KNOW HIM?

HUH?

HMM?

INCREDIBLE. HE READ THE ATTACK JUST LIKE KATSURŌ DID...

ISN'T HE WITH THE THIRD-TIER TEAM?

YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?

MUST BE AN UPPER-CLASSMAN WHO'S A SECOND-TIER SUB.

BUT HE'S WEARING OUR UNIFORM.

DOESN'T LOOK FAMILIAR ...

SO WHO *IS* HE?

ACTS RIGHT AT HOME. CAN'T BE AN OUT-SIDER.

AN ALUM?

SW AA CK

FOO

OM

!

EH?

BAM

ALL RIGHT! GET IN THE GOAL!

!

NEW GUY, CAN HE TAKE THE HEAT?

SMA AAK

IT'S KINDA FUN, SO I'LL KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.

GUESS IT'S OKAY...

...

PFFT

DAICHI OF JOSUI?

WHY IS HE HERE? WHAT'S HE THINKING, JOINING OUR GAME?

GLUNK

WAAH!

WHIFF

SNAAG

LITTLE PUNK!

I'LL SHUT YOU UP ...

FUMP

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?

HEH HEH HEH

WHAT'RE YOU DOING? JUST BECAUSE HE POINTED OUT YOUR SORE SPOT, DON'T GET ALL UPSET.

GUESS YOU GUYS AREN'T THAT TOUGH, AFTER ALL.

BO-RING.

SIGH

YOUR DEFENSE IS SO WEAK, YOU MAY AS WELL STAND STILL.

RRRRRRRR

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU'RE DEFENDING.

YOU'RE A BEAT SLOW WHEN YOU RESPOND TO ATTACKS. THAT'S WHY YOUR MARK LOSES YOU HALF THE TIME. THE OFFENSE CATCHES YOU PICKING YOUR NOSE A LOT.

YADA YADA YADA

NAG

FWISH

HE'S GOOD ...

BUT I DON'T RECOGNIZE HIS FACE ...

THAT WAS EASY.

I'M SAYING IT'S A BREEZE TO READ YOUR ATTACKS.

WHOOMP

WHAT?

SIZZLE

...IT'S EASY TO STOP YOUR SHOTS.

THAT'S WHY...

IN YOUR CASE, YOU ONLY KICK WITH YOUR RIGHT LEG...NO MATTER WHAT, AND YOU CAN'T PULL OFF A ONE-TOUCH SHOT. THAT'S WHY YOUR SHOT SELECTION REEKS.

YADA YADA YADA

GULP

WELL, CAPTAIN, AS A MATTER OF FACT...

ZOINK

SEIJI, YOU KNOW HIM?

WHAT'S THIS RACKET?

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!!

B...BUT CAPTAIN, HE'S THE ONE...

FEIGNING INNOCENCE.

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME. BACK TO YOUR POSITIONS.

CAPTAIN!

SAY, WHAT'S DAICHI DOING OVER THERE?

UM, HEH ...

RUMBLE RUMBLE

WHAT'RE THEY DOING?

SHŌ ...

...TOLD ME THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO ANSWER MY QUESTION.

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT? I DON'T THINK YOU CAME HERE JUST TO CAUSE A RACKET.

JUST RETURNING THE FAVOR, SINCE YOU LOOKED AFTER SEIJI.

HE TOLD ME YOU'RE JOSUI'S NEW KEEPER, DAICHI.

DO YOU ENJOY BEING A GOAL-KEEPER?

COME AGAIN?

SHŌ SAID WHAT?

AH HA HA

I THOUGHT IT WAS AN EASY POSITION WHERE YOU GET TO STAND AROUND THE ENTIRE GAME.

BEING A KEEPER IS A UNIQUE JOB.

NO ONE ON THE FIELD CAN USE THEIR HANDS IN SOCCER... EXCEPT FOR YOU, AND YOU'D BETTER USE THEM WELL.

SCRATCH

NOT SURE, THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING.

YOU DON'T ENJOY IT YOUR-SELF?

PRIMA DONNAS, HUH?
CHUCKLE
WHAT A THING TO SAY.
WHY DID YOU HELP ME?
I SUPPOSE.
IT'S IMPRESSIVE THE WAY YOU MANAGE ALL THOSE LITTLE PRIMA DONNAS.
THEY TRUST YOU, DON'T THEY?

I GUESS YOU LIKE BEING A GOAL-KEEPER.

I DO. IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT I ENJOY BE NG A KEEPER, BUT BEING A PART OF SOCCER ITSELF

PLAYING WITH A TEAM...

HE SMILES JUST LIKE SHŌ.

MY TEAM-MATES DON'T TRUST ME, SO

IT'S TOUGH

...MAKES IT FUN.

YOU THINK SO?

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR A KEEPER IS TO WIN HIS TEAMMATE'S ***TRUST.***

YOU CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND.

YOU HAVE TO CONSTANTLY THINK FIVE, TEN SECONDS INTO THE FUTURE. ANTICIPATE WHAT'S COMING...

DEFENDERS USUALLY TAKE THE HEAT FOR AN OPPONENT'S GOALS, BUT THE REASON WHY THE GOAL-KEEPER IS CALLED THE GUARDIAN DEITY S

BECAUSE HE IS THE GUARDIAN OF THE TEAM'S TRUST BECAUSE HE'S THERE. STRIKERS CAN LAUNCH THEIR OFFENSIVE MOVES WITHOUT RESERVATION. BECAUSE HE'S THERE, TEAMMATES WILL DEFEND BOLDLY AND KNOW THAT, EVEN IF THEY MAKE MISTAKES, IT'LL ALL WORK OUT OKAY

WHY DON'T YOU RETURN HIS TRUST?

'CAUSE YOU LOOK HAPPY

WHY'S THAT?

LOOKS LIKE IT WAS GOOD YOU MET HIM.

I'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT BEING A GOALKEEPER.

GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

SEIJI, I'LL LEAVE THE REST UP TO YOU.

I TOLD THEM HE'S A BUDDY OF YOURS

WHAT? HE LEFT ALREADY?

URGH, HOW BORING

YOU'RE SCARING ME

HUH HUH HUH

I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE.

SMILE

...WHO TRUSTS YOU.

SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE ONE PERSON

READ THIS WAY

...IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO FIGURE OUT IF GOAL-KEEPING IS FOR ME.

BUT...

I'M WILLING TO TAKE A SHOT AT FIXING THINGS WITH MY DEFENDERS ...

.THIS IS MY FIRST EXPER.ENCE WITH THIS SORT OF PROBLEM.

THIS IS A CAR NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

WILL YOU NAVIGATE FOR ME?

NAVIGATE?

..I NEED SOMEBODY TO HELP ME NAV GATE TH S UNKNOWN TERRITORY

THIS IS AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE UNKNOWN

UNKNOWN TERRITORY?

IF YOU HURT SOMEONE, YOU HAVE TO APOLOGIZE. IF YOU WANT TO BE TRUSTED, YOU NEED TO TRUST OTHERS F RST

WHY ME?

FIRST OFF YOU'D BETTER APOLOGIZE

GOT IT. I'LL DO MY BEST

IT'S AN NCREDIBLY ROUNDABOUT WAY OF ASKING, BUT I THINK HE WANTS ME TO HELP PATCH THINGS UP WITH THE DEFENSE IN HIS OWN WAY, DAICHI WANTS TO MAKE AMENDS.

SURE. IF IT'S ALL R.GHT WITH YOU.

STAGE.55 Weakness

I GOT IT. GOALKEEPING IS ALL ABOUT TRUST.

WHY'RE YOU ASKING ME?

NOW, WHAT DO I DO?

WHISH

AFTER ALL, DAICHI'S THE ONE WHO DESTROYED IT

THAT'S TRUE.

BUT IN MY CASE, MY DEFENDERS AND I HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN EACH OTHER.

TUP TUP TUP

HMMMM.

I HAVE A TRACK RECORD OF DESTROYING THINGS, BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE .OR RATHER.

IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT I SHOULD.

STAGE.55 Weakness

DAICHI, IT'S FRIGHTENING WHEN YOU SMILE WITHOUT CHANGING YOUR FACIAL EXPRESSION.
IT'S BEEN INTER-EGTING
HEH HEH HEH
SINCE YOU INVOLVED ME WITH THIS TEAM, I'VE HAD ENDLESS DIFFICULTIES.

SHE WENT TO GATHER SOME INFORMATION ON IWASHIMIZU TECH UNIVERSITY JUNIOR HIGH. WE'RE UP AGAINST THEM IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE TOURNAMENT
SMART MOVE.

CRA

CKLE

WHAT S SHŌ TH NKING?

IT'S LIKE A SNAKE STAR NG DOWN A FROG

IT WAS MY FALL. .

KL

UNK

SORRY.

TRY YOUR BEST, DAICHI.

I'M SUPPOSED TO APOLOGIZ FIRST I THINK

THE WAY TO DO IT S.

SIZZLE

.. BEING LATE.

. SORRY ABOUT.

EVEN WHEN HE APOLOGIZES, HE ACTS IMPOSING.

MUTTER

THE CRUSHER APOLOGIZED?

YOU MIND HEARING HIM OUT?

NO. .

DAICHI WANTS TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU.

YEAH?

HEY, HIRO-YOSHI.

GOTTA DO SOME-THING TO BREAK THE TENSION.

IT'S TRUE YOU'VE APOLOGIZED, BUT SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT

WHY DID IT TURN OUT THAT WAY?

MAYBE IT WOULD HELP IF HE WIPED THE BLOOD OFF HIS FACE

HMMM.

DID I DO IT RIGHT?

PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

THAT'S ENOUGH! I UNDERSTAND.

SHŌ.

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BEFORE THE NEXT GAME

YES!

C'MON, NOW THAT SHŌ AND DAICHI ARE BACK, LET'S CHECK THE FORMATION.

TRUTH BE TOLD, I'M GLAD YOU TALKED TO HIM. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO

REALLY?

SORRY ABOUT THAT IT WAS SOMETHING I SHOULD'VE TAKEN CARE OF

OH NO, I SHOULDN'T HAVE MEDDLED

SORRY ABOUT BUTTING IN

YUP.

SO HE'S GONNA.

SILENCE

OUCH.

!?

DRIP

ZING

UH-OH, BLEW IT. BETTER TRY AGAIN.

DRIP

DRIP

LOOM

AT FAULT

LOOM

I WAS

ZONK

SORRY

LOOM

OR SCARY, YOU MIGHT SAY

SHUDDER

IS, UM, REFRESHING

DAICHI'S WAY OF APOLOGIZING

EEEEK!

DA.CHI!

OKAY
THEY'VE STARTED PRACTICING THE R FORMATION. MAKE SURE YOU RECORD IT
THE FORMATION IS 3-5-2.
AT THE 1 5 POSITION
SHARP
CREATIVE
IN
THOSE TWO ARE THE CORE OF JOSUI'S OFFENSE.
...DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE IT'LL WORK OUT.
I DON'T THINK THINGS ARE TOTALLY FIXED, BUT..
IT LOOKS LIKE HE GAINED SOMETHING BY VISITING MUSASHI-NOMORI.
LET'S HOPE HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING STUPID
BESIDES, KATSURŌ DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING .
HE MIGHT HAVE, UH, DONE SOMETH NG THERE BUT I WAS TOO SCARED TO ASK.
HE VISITED MUSASHI-NOMORI?!
DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S BEEN UNTIL NOW, BUT FINALLY, THE GANG'S ALL HERE
AND THE OTHER ONE NO 9, IS SHŌ KAZAMA-TSUR.
NO 10 IS THE CAPTAIN, TATSUYA MIZUNO.

READ THIS WAY

BONK

SHE'S GONE!?

SORRY 'BOUT THAT SO

TIPPY TOE

DUDE YOU'RE CRAMPING MY STYLE!

BECAUSE IT'S A SCIENCE SCHOOL, I SUPPOSE THEY PLAY AN ANALYTICAL AND METHODICAL STYLE OF SOCCER.

HMM, WE'VE GOT A SIMILAR TYPE OF GEEK, TOO

HOW COULD A *NOTHING* TEAM MAKE IT TO SECOND PLACE?

IT BOTHERS ME SOMEHOW.

I SHOULD TALK NOT ONLY TO THE TEAM THAT WON FIRST PLACE, BUT ALSO TO THE TEAMS WHO LOST TO THEM.

THEY'RE *TOTALLY* OVER-RATED.

HMMM, THERE WASN'T ANYONE INCREDIBLE THAT STOOD OUT, AND THERE WASN'T ANYTHING THAT GREAT ABOUT THE TEAM.

YOUR TEAM DEFEATED THEM TO TAKE FIRST PLACE, RIGHT?

IWASHIM ZU TECH UNIVERSITY JUNIOR HIGH?

IS THAT RIGHT? I'M SO GLAD. ♡

ACTING SWEET ♡

THEY'RE WEAK, SO DON'T WORRY.

I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU'RE RESEARCHING THE OPPOSING TEAM.

THAT'S GOTTA BE THE CASE

YOU THINK SO?

KUWATA! STOP SCREWING AROUND!

SOOO. ANYWAY BABY WOULD YOU?

THEY SCORED ONE GOAL AGAINST US, BUT IT WAS JUST BECAUSE THEY PICKED UP A LOOSE BALL AND GOT LUCKY

THE REASON THEY MADE IT THROUGH THE LEAGUE IN SECOND PLACE MUST BE BECAUSE THE OTHER TWO SCHOOLS STINK, I BET

GLEAM

SWISH

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

THEY'VE GOTTEN WORSE BY OVER-THINKING THEIR COVERAGE.

THEY'RE OUT OF SYNC.

AS EXPECTED. IT'S EASY TO SPLIT THE DEFENSE.

IT'S NO GOOD.

YOU WON'T SURVIVE THE TOURNAMENT MATCH.

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT OVER THIS WALL

TRUST DEFENDERS

AND RELY ON THEM?

TOP

BOMP

READ THIS WAY

OUR STYLE IS TO DEFEND DILIGENTLY, PROTECT THE GOAL, THEN WAIT FOR A CHANCE TO COUNTER.

IF OUR DEFENSE HOLDS, WE CAN'T LOSE.

TO MAKE IT HAPPEN, WE GATHER NECESSARY DATA...

PEOPLE SAY WE GET CHEAP WINS, AND THAT OUR STYLE OF PLAY IS BORING.

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO WIN.

...FIND A WEAKNESS, AND ATTACK THAT WEAKNESS RELENTLESSLY.

WE'RE NINTH-GRADERS, AND THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO PLAY JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER

LET THEM SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT

IF WE WANT TO WIN, THAT'S THE WAY WE HAVE TO DO IT.

THEY *DID* GRAB FIRST PLACE BY WINNING EVERY MATCH IN LEAGUE PLAY. THEY'VE GOT SOME STANDOUTS WITH TALENT. IF THEY GET ON A ROLL, THEY'LL BE A FORMIDABLE TEAM...

...

THE TEAMWORK BETWEEN THE DEFENDERS AND THE KEEPER STINKS.

YEAH, WE DON'T HAVE ANY STELLAR PLAYERS

BUT I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR STABILITY AND DEFENSIVE STRENGTH.

IT'S THE POLAR OPPOSITE OF US ISN'T IT?

BUT

ON THE OTHER HAND, BOTH THEIR OFFENSE AND DEFENSE ARE INCONSISTENT

BECAUSE THERE'RE HUGE GAPS BETWEEN THEIR INDIVIDUAL SKILL LEVELS, IT'S EASY TO EXPLOIT WEAKNESSES

HMMM.

MASASHI.

..I CAN'T TELL IF IWASHIMIZU TECH IS A STRONG OR WEAK TEAM. I GUESS I'D BETTER RESEARCH THEM DIRECTLY

I ASKED EVERY TEAM, BUT...

THEIR OFFSIDE TRAP WAS EXCELLENT. THAT'S WHY WE COULDN'T SCORE...

WE WERE ALWAYS ON THE OFFENSIVE, BUT THEY PICKED UP THE BALL AND SCORED

THEY DEFENDED AGGRESSIVELY AND WAITED TO COUNTER-ATTACK. THAT'S THEIR STYLE.

THEY SCORED ONE GOAL AGAINST US

AND THEY SCORED WHEN THEY PICKED UP THE BALL, ENDING THE GAME.

BUT IT WAS JUST BECAUSE THEY PICKED UP A LOOSE BALL AND GOT LUCKY

I LOVE SOCCER.

BUT MY DREAM IS TO BECOME AN ENGINEER. ONCE I MOVE UP TO IWASHIMIZU TECH UNIVERSITY HIGH, I NEED TO STOP PLAYING SPORTS AND FOCUS ON MY STUDIES.

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO SQUEEZE IN AS MUCH SOCCER AS POSSIBLE WHILE I'M STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH.

I WANT TO KEEP THIS RUN GOING WITH YOU GUYS AS LONG AS I CAN.

TO DO THAT, WE HAVE TO KEEP WINNING!

THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE STRATEGY.

SAME WITH ME. LET'S BRING OUR "A" GAME, CAPTAIN SATORU.

LET'S TAKE THEM DOWN WITH OUR "CHEAP" AND "BORING" SOCCER.

DAISUKE NOTE

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY	MARCH 3 1986
SIZE	149 cm 58 kg
BLOOD TYPE	A
FAVORITE FOOD	PUDDING
WHAT HE DISLIKES	FRESH APPLES
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS	TOY MODEL MAKING & HAVING A FLEXIBLE BODY

HIROYOSHI NORO

THE MITCHI* OF MUSASHINO MOR.

AS A JOKE, I DREW HIM IN COSPLAY IT SUITS HIM PERFECTLY

SEIYA AMANO

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY	JUNE 20, 1983
SIZE	173 cm 57 kg
BLOOD TYPE	B
FAVORITE FOOD	CHOCOLATE SUNDAES
WHAT HE DISLIKES	SCALLIONS CELERY ASIAN MINT NATTO FERMENTED SOYBEAN
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS	COLLECTING THE SIGNATURES OF FAMOUS SOCCER PLAYERS & SMOOTH TALKING

*MITCHI REFERS TO JAPANESE POP STAR MITSUHIRO OIKAWA.

THEY PICKED UP THE BALL AND SCORED...
THAT MEANS THEY MADE IT HAPPEN.
CLICK
CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE.
ALL THREE TEAMS SAID BASICALLY THE SAME THING.

WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JOSU ON THIS TAPE. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE GAME ON SUNDAY.
. WE MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE F THEY EXPLOIT OUR TEAM'S WEAKNESS RIGHT NOW.

IWA TECH WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR STUPID MISTAKES. THEY'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO EXPLOIT OUR WEAKNESSES, LIKE OUR BAD TEAMWORK AND THE LACK OF TRUST BETWEEN THE DEFENSE AND THE KEEPER

YOU'RE NOT CUTE

...

WELL IT'S BETTER THAN TELLING YOU THAT EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE JUST DANDY AND HAVING YOU GET UPSET WHEN IT'S NOT

GEEZ. YUK DON'T HOLD BACK. WHAT DO YOU *REALLY* THINK?

NO, HOW 'BOUT WE *DON'T?*

LET'S CLEAR THE AIR

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME WE'LL MAKE ADJUSTMENTS. PRESSURE MORE AT THE FRONTLINE, EVEN THOUGH IT'LL BE TOUGH ON THE MIDFIELDERS.

AND AS FAR THE DEFENSE GOES WE CAN'T PLAY CORRECTLY UNTIL WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE ..

STAGE.56 Everlasting Passion (STEP BY STEP)

BASED ON WHAT THEY TOLD ME. I COULDN'T TELL WHETHER IWASHIMIZU TECH UNIVERSITY JUNIOR HIGH IS STRONG OR WEAK.

AND AKING INTO CONSIDERATION WHAT OTHERS TOLD ME, I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT

SO, I ACTUALLY WENT TO WATCH IWA TECH PRACTICE WITH MY OWN EYES

IWA TECH ISN'T WEAK AT ALL.

THEY'RE A PATIENT OPPONENT, WHO WILL DEFEND TENACIOUSLY UNTIL THEY CAN COUNTER OR EXECUTE A SET PLAY

IN THE STATE WE'RE IN NOW, THEY'LL BE TOUGH TO DEFEAT

THE TEAMS WHO'VE PLAYED AGAINST THEM DON'T SEEM TO KNOW WHY THEY LOST

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

THEY ALL SEEM TO THINK THAT IWASHIMIZU TECH UNIVERSITY JUNIOR HIGH WON BY PURE LUCK

...IF WE WANT TO WIN, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER.

NONE-THE-LESS

EVEN IF OUR MOTIVATIONS ARE DIFFERENT

IF WE CAN'T PULL TOGETHER NOW THEN WHAT'S THE POINT OF PLAYING?

CHUNK

IT'LL WORK OUT THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO

ANY-WAY

SO EVERYBODY JUST DOES HIS OWN THING? THAT'S THE PLAN?

...

STAGE.56
Everlasting Passion (STEP BY STEP)

WHETHER WE WIN OR LOSE. I DON'T REALLY CARE

C'MON, SHIGE

YOU'RE SAYING YOU DON'T MIND LOSING?

AS LONG AS WE PLAY AN INTERESTING GAME, THAT'S ENOUGH

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? EACH OF US PLAYS FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. IT'S RIDICULOUS TO TRY TO MAKE US ALL THINK THE SAME WAY AND IT WOULD GIVE ME THE CREEPS.

THAT'S SO SELFISH

DAICHI APOLOGIZED. PEOPLE WILL EITHER GET OVER IT OR THEY WON'T. IT'S A WASTE OF TIME TO FORCE THE ISSUE.

WASN'T ME.

BUT IF THEY WANT TO WIN, THEY ALL NEED TO BE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH AND TRUST EACH OTHER. THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN DO THAT IS BY DEALING WITH CONFLICTS AND FACING CHALLENGES TOGETHER ON THE FIELD

IF THEY WERE PLAYING FOR FUN, THEN IT'S FINE TO HAVE A SUPERFICIAL RELATIONSHIP.

THEY'RE AT A CROSS-ROADS RIGHT NOW.

WE NEED TO TRUST THEM, AND WAIT.

AFTER SCHOOL

I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU

DO WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT

..SO, I'D LIKE TO HAVE A MEETING ABOUT IT AFTER PRACTICE

THE PROBLEM IS THEY HAVE WILDLY DIFFERENT ABILITY LEVELS AND THEY'RE OUT OF SYNC

DO YOU THINK JOSUI MANAGED TO FIX THE PROBLEM WITH ITS DEFENSE?

TOMORROW'S GAME DAY AT LAST

I'M SURE THEY WORKED ON IT, BUT TO FIX THE PROBLEM IN A DAY WOULD BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE

...BUT IT WOULDN'T CHANGE WHAT'S GOING ON IN THEIR HEADS.

IT WOULD BE EASY ENOUGH FOR ME TO FORCE THEM TO DO THIS OR THAT.

COACH MATSUSHITA, SHOULDN'T WE SAY SOMETHING TO THEM? THEY'RE JUST KIDS.

THEY'RE JUST KIDS, BUT THEY NEED TO HASH THIS OUT THEMSELVES

IS IT OKAY TO JUST LEAVE HIM HANGING?

SEEMED LIKE HE WANTED YOUR ADVICE

OKAY, OKAY.

DON'T APOLOGIZE. JUST PAY YOUR TAB.

HUMPH!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, OYASAN

AND IT'S NOT EASY TO FIX A TEAM, ONCE IT'S BROKEN.

IT'S SO EASY FOR THINGS TO FALL APART IN GROUP SPORTS.

WHAT'RE YOU SCHEMING?

PUFF

IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, WHAT WOULD SHŌ DO?

SIGH

SIGH

WE CAN'T CHANGE THE MEMBERS AT THIS POINT THOUGH

WONDER WHAT THEY'RE GONNA DO

MUTTER

WHISPER

IT'S BECAUSE OF THE DEFENSE AND THE KEEPER?

IT'S TRUE THE MOOD ON THIS TEAM STINKS

DON'T KNOW

ARE WE GONNA BE OKAY TOMORROW?

MUTTER

I'LL ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME, DOES ANYONE HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THIS?

WHAT DO YOU THINK? HOW DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DEAL WITH IT?

SO, EVEN THOUGH WE MADE IT INTO THE TOURNAMENT MATCH TOMORROW, OUR TEAMWORK IS STILL SHAKY

SORRY ABOUT THAT

AH.

GRUMBLE

NOBODY'S GOING TO SPEAK UP IN A MEETING LIKE THIS.

IT'S BEEN ALMOST AN HOUR SINCE WE STARTED THE MEETING, BUT NO ONE HAS SAID A WORD.

GEEZ.

WHEN YOU SHOW UP LIKE THIS, I HAVE TO TURN CUSTOMERS AWAY.

YOU COULDA WARNED ME YOU WERE COMING.

WHY DON'T WE GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT?

HOW 'BOUT IT? YOU MUST BE HUNGRY TOO.

...
SURE.

CAN I SIT WITH YOU?

THAT'S OKAY ALREADY HAD SOME

WANNA EAT A PIECE OF DAIKON RADISH?

YEAH

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE DONE THIS.

CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, SHŌ?

.TO LEAVE IT THE WAY IT IS.

I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY

THE PROBLEM WILL BE SETTLED IF YOU JUST REPLACE ME WITH A BETTER PLAYER!

I SUCK COMPARED TO THE REST OF YOU.

THE PROBLEM ISN'T WITH THE DEFENSE. IT'S WITH ME.

JUST SAY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, POINT BLANK!

DON'T KNOW

ENOUGH

DOOM

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

SMAK

THEN I WILL...

I JUST WANTED TO ENJOY PLAYING SOCCER, SHŌ...

...THAT'S ALL I WANTED ...

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, JUST TELL ME TO QUIT THE TEAM!!

YOU MIGHT AS WELL TELL ME THAT I SUCK

THESE DAYS, SHŌ, YOU AREN'T ONE OF US!

YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AND BETTER, AND YOU'RE LEAVING US BEHIND!

YOU DON'T RELY ON US, EITHER!

IT WOULD BE NICE, AT LEAST IF YOU COULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT

DAICHI'S TROUBLED BY IT IN HIS OWN WAY HE'S TRYING HIS BEST TO SORT IT OUT

...YOU SEEM TO UNDERSTAND DAICHI PRETTY WELL

...

SO, YOU CAN'T FORGIVE DAICHI YET?

I LIKED THE TEAM BETTER BEFORE.

I DON'T CARE IF WE WIN OR LOSE!

THE CURRENT TEAM IS HARSH. IT'S ALL ABOUT *WINNING!* WHAT DO WE DO TO *WIN?* WILL WE *WIN* IF WE DO THIS OR THAT?

...HIRO-YOSHI

THE WINNERS OF A GAME HONOR THE LOSERS BY PLAYING WITH EVERYTHING THEY HAVE ...

...AND UNTIL WE HIT A WALL, UNTIL A BETTER TEAM BEATS US, WE SHOULD TRY OUR BEST, INSTEAD OF RUNNING AWAY.

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO DO!

EVERYONE TAKES UP SOCCER FOR DIFFERENT REASONS BUT WE ALL HAVE A PASSION FOR THE SPORT

THAT DRIVE CARRIES US THROUGH A GAME. EVEN IF WE LOSE. IF WE WIN, IT PUSHES US FORWARD TO THE NEXT GAME

WHY DO I WANT TO WIN SO MUCH ...?

I'M HAPPY JUST KICKING THE BALL.

Y... YES!

EVERYONE GET ENOUGH TO EAT?

...

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, COACH?

THEN, LET'S HEAD BACK.

...I DON'T REALLY SAY OR DO ANYTHING?

SWOOP

GULP

DO ALL OF YOU THINK THAT EVEN THOUGH I'M YOUR COACH.

AH, YES. YES, I'VE GOT ONE THING TO SAY.

I WANT TO SEE IF I HAVE ENOUGH PASSION. I WANT TO SEE HOW FAR THE SPORT WILL TAKE ME...

...I WANT TO ***WIN.***

JUST ***LIKING*** SOCCER ISN'T ENOUGH.

I'M SORRY.

...SHŌ.

WHAT WAS I THINKING?

MY PASSION!

IT'S NOT LIKE THE PROBLEM IS RESOLVED BUT

. WE HAVE TO GO FOR IT.

GOTTA DO THE BEST WE CAN.

YOU'RE JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS, AND I WANT YOU TO UNDER-STAND THAT TECHNIQUE WILL ONLY GET YOU SO FAR.

BUT YOU'RE NOT PROS.

I CAN TEACH YOU THE TECHNIQUE YOU NEED TO WIN.

SO FOR NOW, SLEEP ON IT. STRUGGLE THROUGH THE PROBLEM AND LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES!

AND I WANT SOCCER TO TEACH YOU...

...THE DIFFICULTY AND JOY OF WORKING AS A TEAM AND TRUSTING EACH OTHER ...

...AND PUTTING OTHERS BEFORE YOUR-SELF.

... JOSUI!

WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS GAME...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

OKAY, TAKE OFF!

I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK TOMORROW.

STAGE.57

Key Is Locked

WHISTLE! THEATRE

Sorry

CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

Well Past Curfew

AH, THAT

HOW DID YOU SNEAK IN AGAIN, DAICHI?

THAT'S OKAY ALREADY HAD SOME

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE DONE THIS WANNA EAT A PIECE OF DAIKON RADISH?

?

COME TO THINK OF IT, I FORGOT TO GIVE BACK THE UNIFORM. OH WELL, I'M SURE IT'S FINE.

AH A SHOOT NG STAR

HE SAID HE'D BE RIGHT BACK. DIDN'T HE?

MEAN-WHILE

UM...BUT I WILL TAKE THAT FISH CAKE OFF YOUR HANDS.

FISH CAKE

CALM DOWN, FATHER.

WHAT? RYO SN'T HOME YET?.

BACK AT HOME

M. MOTHER, CALL THE POLICE!

THE PLOT THICKENS

MANGA BY SEKI ASSISTANT S

DISTRICT PRIMARY TOURNAMENT, FIRST MATCH
LOCATION NISHIGAOKA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
OSU JUNIOR HIGH VS. IWASHIMIZU TECH UNIVERSITY JUNIOR HIGH

THEY LOOK PRETTY AVERAGE SIZE-WISE, AND THEY DON'T SEEM ALL THAT EXCITING

THAT'S IWA TECH, HUH ?

BUT . .

WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE, EITHER.

WE'RE GOING TO KEEP GOING AS LONG AS WE CAN.

YOU WATCH, BECAUSE WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN THIS GAME.

DON'T SAY THAT. WE'RE GRATEFUL THAT YOU EVEN AGREED TO HELP US.

DO YOUR BEST.

HOW'RE YOU GUYS FEELING TODAY?

IWA TECH COACH

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD GIVE YOU SOME GOOD ADVICE-- BUT I'M SORRY I'M A COACH IN NAME ONLY.

WE'RE JUST GOING TO PLAY OUR GAME, AS USUAL.

DON'T WORRY MR SHIBATA.

DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH. I JUST WANT TO BE AVERAGE.

I WANT THIS NIGHTMARE TO END QUICKLY.

I WANT OFF THIS STAGE NOW.

I'M SCARED.

I CAN'T DO IT.

EVEN IF THEY ENCOURAGE ME TO DO MY BEST, I'M NOT SPECIAL.

I PREFER TO HANG BACK WITH THE RABBLE.

...AM I HERE?

WHY...

SO I'LL DO WHAT I HAVE TO. .

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

MY PRESENCE JUST DRAGS EVERYBODY DOWN.

DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU JET SOMEONE REPLACE YOU?

AT THE MUSASHI-NOMORI MATCH, WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS, AND THAT'S WHY I COULD PLAY

BUT NOW

JUST LIKE THAT TIME

I'M SCARED!

THEY DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT I KNOW I M THE WORST.

HIRO-YOSHI!

I'M TIRED OF BEING FRIGHTENED!

WHY COULDN'T THINGS STAY THE SAME?

WHO CARES F WE WIN OR LOSE? AS LONG IT WAS FUN, IT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME

DRIP

RECIT

BACK IN THE KINDERGARTEN, WHEN I HAD MY BIG RECORDER SOLO.

BUT I FROZE, AND JUST STOOD THERE ON STAGE WITH MY RECORDER IN MY HAND

THE TEAM S RAPIDLY BECOMING STRONGER AND CHANGING FAST

I CAN'T KEEP UP

I'M FRIGHTENED BUT

BUT

THESE FRIENDS

WHO ACCEPTED ME.

GRIP

HIRO-YOSHI'S TREMBLING

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEM.

OSU!

KICKING OFF, IWASHIMIZU TECH UNIVERSITY JUNIOR HIGH

WHAT TIME IS IT?!

SHŌ ...

GAME TIME!!

IWA TECH.

STOMP

FIGHT !!

JOSUI

BIP

WHOOSH

TWEET

HIRO-YOSHI.

SO, LET'S TAKE 'EM DOWN.

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

...I'LL DO MY BEST DURING THIS GAME.

I'LL QUIT THE TEAM, BUT...

THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME EVEN THOUGH I ACTED LIKE A JERK YESTERDAY

KAORU, HIDEOM

SORRY, YOU GUYS

YUP

SHŌ

SHŌ ...

!

WHAT A QUICK CHECK!

WH ?

...HE MIGHT QUIT PLAYING SOCCER.

IF HIROYOSHI'S MISTAKES ALLOW A GOAL...

THAT'S WHY...

...I'LL STOP THEM ON THIS SIDE OF THE PITCH!

IF HE KEEPS GOING LIKE THIS, HE WON'T MAKE IT THROUGH THE GAME.

...SHŌ.

SHOOM

SHOOM

IT'S TRUE WE TALKED ABOUT PRESSURING FROM THE FRONTLINE, BUT.

SHŌ'S GOING TOO FAST, TOO SOON

WHOOSH

BUP

HIROYOSHI IS LOSING CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF

WHO UP

HEY, DON'T LEAVE US IN YOUR DUST

SHIGE!

BOO-UMP

HUH !?

WHAT !?

!

LET'S GO, THEN ...

BECAUSE I'M QUITTING SOCCER ANYWAY ..

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ON ME.

HE'S TRYING TO HELP ME OUT!?

SHŌ ...

FOOMP

10

POOT

AH ...

SHOOM

WHAT IS THAT ABOUT?

THE WAY THEY'VE PLUGGED UP THE GOAL, IT'LL BE HARD TO SCORE.

THEY'RE WILLING TO ABANDON THEIR OFFENSE JUST TO DEFEND?

THIS IS IWA TECH SOCCER. GET USED TO IT.

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO ATTACK?

THEY'RE ALL COVERING THE GOAL ?!

STAGE.58

Nightmare of the Last Five Minutes

BIP
BUP
WHAT ARE THEY GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
WITH THAT KIND OF HEAVY COVERAGE, IT'S NO WONDER
THEY'VE SENT THE BALL BACK TO THE DEFENSE AGAIN.
TWENTY-THREE MINUTES SINCE THE GAME STARTED

DAISUKE NOTE

Iwa Tech Side

SATORU OGATA

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY	JAN 18, 1984
SIZE	166 cm 53 kg
BLOOD TYPE	O
FAVORITE FOOD	FIGS
WHAT HE DISLIKES	NOTHING IN PARTICULAR
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS	BIRD WATCHING AND TINKERING WITH MACHINES

MASASHI HAYANO

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY	AUG 30, 1984
SIZE	162 cm 50 kg
BLOOD TYPE	B
FAVORITE FOOD	CHESTNUTS
WHAT HE DISLIKES	TOFU
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS	VIDEO EDITING AND PROGRAM SOFTWARE

SKOOM

TUP

THEY'LL CLEAR THE BALL TO THE SIDELINE, AND...

FOOMP

JOSUI GETS THE THROW-IN, BUT...

..BY THAT TIME, IWA TECH'S DEFENSE HAS ADJUSTED TO THE ANGLE OF ATTACK.

... STOP THE FLOW OF THE GAME.

TOSS

AND SET UP A NEW PLAY.

PUUNT

BECAUSE THEY'VE LOST THE SCORING OPPORTUNITY JOSUI HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO SEND THE BALL BACK.

SHOOM

SHOOM

BUT IWA TECH COVERS QUICKLY, AND NOT ONLY THAT

...THEY'VE SET UP A VIRTUAL WALL IN FRONT OF THE GOAL

THEY'VE TRIED A VARIETY OF ATTACKS.

BOOMP

FOR EXAMPLE

EVEN IF THEY TRY TO CUT THROUGH FROM THE SIDE

...LETS GO N FROM THE SIDE!

THEY'RE PLUGGING UP THE GOAL

WHOOSH

THE QUESTION IS, CAN JOSU PULL OUT OF THEIR ATTACK AND COVER THE GOAL QUICKLY ENOUGH?

I BET THAT MEANS THEY'LL SHIFT INTO OFFENSIVE MODE AT SOME POINT.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT IWA TECH'S BORING?

GEEZ, WHAT AN IRRITATING GAME.

DO SOME-THING!

STOP PLAYING LIKE WUSSIES! BE AGGRESSIVE!

SHOOM

WE DON'T HAVE ANY SUPER-STARS, AND THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN WIN.

NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY, THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

IT DOESN'T SHAKE UP THE DEFENSE.

THEY'VE ALREADY TRIED THAT

SO THAT'S WHAT IT'S CALLED

YOU MEAN, DRIBBLING?

YEAH.

THEN, UM, WHAT IF SOMEONE TAKES THE BALL IN BY HIMSELF AND, YOU KNOW SHOOTS?

HOW-EVER, WITH THIS TEAM..

THE MOMENT THE BALL IS STOLEN, DEFENSE SWITCHES TO OFFENSE .AND DEFENDERS BECOME POTENTIAL ATTACKERS.

IT'S NOT LIKE BASE-BALL. YOU DON'T TAKE TURNS ON OFFENSE.

WHAT'RE WE SUP-POSED TO DO?

THEN

BY FOCUSING ON DEFENSE, THEY MAKE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SCORE, BUT THEY CAN'T WIN THE MATCH THAT WAY

EVEN WHEN THEY STEAL THE BALL, ONLY ONE PLAYER ATTACKS, THAT'S WHY WE CAN GET THE BALL RIGHT BACK.

BUT WHEN WE'RE READY TO ATTACK THERE'S NO ROOM TO MOVE. THEIR DEFENSE IS ALWAYS SET.

SHOOM

BIP

TUUMP

TUUMP

WHOOSH

I'M GONNA STEAL A GOAL!

SHOOM

GLRRR

HUP

WHOOSH

...AS IF HE'S TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING...

5

FOOM

HE RUNS AS IF HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON IT...

TO HELP HIROYOSHI

I'M GONNA PUT IT IN THE NET!

THAT'S ALL I CAN DO AS A STRIKER

DON'T GIVE UP, HIROYOSHI!

JUD

SO...

SWACK

STOMP

CLENCH

HE'S TOTALLY OUT OF CONTROL TODAY

IT'S NORMAL FOR HIM TO BE RECKLESS. BUT

THAT KID

SHOOM

OFF-SIDE!

IT'S BAD .. THE GOAL IS... TOO FAR...

TWEE

ZUp

DE-FENSE!

YŪ-SUKE!

SH

GET BACK !!

THEY'RE ON THE MOVE!

IT'S GUT-CHECK TIME DEFENSE !!

FUP

GOOD FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE HALF ENDS!

AS WE PLANNED JOSH IS OVEREXTENDED, AND WE'LL EXPLOIT THE BAD TEAMWORK ON THEIR DEFENSE!

EVERY-ONE, ATTACK !!

FOOMP

TUMP

KEEPER!

. I MUST CLEAR THIS BALL NO MATTER WHAT!!

DO MY BEST! IN MY LAST GAME...

WHAT..

...ELSE CAN I DO, BUT TRY HARD?

WHEN SHŌ IS TRYING SO HARD...

WHAT?

ZOINK

POONT

NO!

FT

WA

TUP

TUP

ROLL

STAGE.59

What It Means to Be a Teammate

TWEE

THAT'S THE HALF!

OWN GOAL !!

N... NO.

YOU *MORON!*

SHI-GEKI...

ARRGH, SHUT UP! IT'S PRECIOUS TIME TO REST. IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ME, I'LL *TIE YOU UP!*

B... BUT

SHOVE

GO SIT ON YOURS AND REST

I'M SORRY, BUT...

THERE'S NO "BUT" ABOUT IT!

WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO PROVE IN THE FIRST HALF? RUNNING AROUND LIKE A NUT ARE YOU TRYING TO SELF-DESTRUCT?

SHI-GEKI

YES.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP OUT HIROYOSH, YOU'D BETTER REST AND RECOVER SOME OF YOUR STAMINA

DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL GET THE EQLALIZER RIGHT AWAY. WE'RE STILL IN THIS.

W...WE STILL HAVE THE SECOND HALF!

OH NO, DON'T IGNORE ME

I'VE GOT IT

THE WIND TOOK IT.

SWISH SWISH

THEIR KEEPER DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HE HAD THE FOOT TO DO THAT

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE BALL MADE IT TO THE PENALTY AREA.

GRASP

HIRO-YOSH!

IT'S TOO MUCH!

OH MAN!

BUT AFTER ALL, I DID REALIZE THAT I WAS THE WORST, AND THAT I'LL BE A BURDEN TO THE REST. I MEANT TO QUIT. THAT'S WHY I TRIED REALLY HARD DURING THIS GAME.

I REALLY WANTED TO DO MY BEST, BUT I ENDED UP WITH AN OWN GOAL. IT'S HUMILIATING. I'VE BEEN A COMPLETE LOSER LATELY, BLAMING OTHERS FOR MY WEAKNESS.

IT WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM TO BEGIN WITH

I CAN'T STAND IT I'M DONE.

I'M SCARED I CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE I WANT TO RUN AWAY

AND THIS IS THE RESULT.

WHOOSH

DAICHI.

SWISH

UMMM, BUT OUR OFFENSE WENT FULL THROTTLE AND COULDN'T SCORE

WHISPER

DO YOU THINK WE CAN REVERSE IT?

WHISPER

THEY CAN JUST SIT BACK AND DEFEND NOW.

WHISPER

TUSSLE TUSSLE

PLEASE DON'T HIT ME!!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE.

I'M SO SORRY. IT WAS ALL MY FAULT.

SCRAPE

DAICHI ...

I GOTTA STOP HIM.

LET'S LEAVE IT TO DAICHI.

DON'T WORRY

TA-TSUYA!

DA CHI, WAIT A SEC!

...

HMM?

DOOM

BLUBBER

BLUBBER

I'LL TALK TO COACH AND ASK HIM TO REPLACE ME WITH SOMEONE ELSE

MURMUR

GULP

MURMUR

GRAB

EEEK!

LOOM

YOINK

I'M SO SORRY

UH OH. THAT'S BAD

HE'S SERIOUSLY LOST IT

DAICHI MAY EVEN KILL HIROYOSHI.

NICE WEATHER, DON'T YOU THINK?

...

?

HUH?

ARE YOU THINKING OF QUITTING?

IT IS DIFFICULT

SHŌ TOLD ME TO EMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS, BUT

NO ONE'LL INTERFERE WITH US HERE

YOSHI

CHOK

OMIGOSH!

WHAAH...

SCRRRP

HE'S GONNA HUMILIATE ME!

YOINK

PLOP

THEY'LL DEFEND THIS ONE POINT AS IF THEIR LIVES DEPENDED ON IT...

I LET THEM SCORE ALREADY.

EVEN IF I WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT I CAN'T

I CAN'T UNDO THE DAMAGE.

THEN . I LET THEM SCORE

DURING THE FIRST HALF, WE COULDN'T SCORE, DESPITE OUR FULL-ON ATTACK

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU ACKNOWLEDGED IT! YOU'RE JUST RUNNING AWAY

ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT FOREVER?

YOU HUMBLE YOURSELF WITH WORDS AND JUSTIFY YOUR COWARDICE.

HOW SIMPLEMINDED

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE QUITTING?

THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE

BUT A LOUSY PLAYER LIKE ME SHOULDN'T CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE.

PERSONALLY, I DON'T CARE IF YOU QUIT, BUT..

BUH... BECAUSE IF I STAY IN, I'LL END UP DRAGGING EVERYBODY DOWN. .

WHAT?

...SHŌ'S EFFORT DURING THE FIRST HALF WILL BE WASTED THEN

BINK

SHŌ PRESSURED THE FRONTLINE TO TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF ME, NOW HE'S EXHAUSTED.

...AH.

B... BUT...

SHOULDN'T WE PLAY AS A TEAM? THAT'S WHAT SHŌ SAYS.

SOCCER CAN'T BE PLAYED ALONE.

TWEE

IS HE WRONG? HIRO-YOSHI...

SECOND HALF!

A HIGH KICK

GOOD LUCK.

FOR JOSUI TO WIN, *YOUR EFFORT IS ESSENTIAL!*

EVEN A RAT WILL BITE A CAT WHEN DRIVEN INTO A CORNER!

YOU SAW THE WAY IWA TECH FOUGHT

HAP-HAZARD?

SO LONG AS YOU BELIEVE YOU WON'T REGRET PLAYING. EVEN IN SUCH A HAPHAZARD WAY

IF YOU STILL WANT TO QUIT, KNOWING THAT, THEN GO AHEAD AND END IT.

IF YOU GO OUT THERE AND FIGHT THIS HALF, I'LL BACK YOU UP

ONLOOKERS SAY THAT'S A TIMID STRATEGY BUT A DEFENDER LIKE YOU MUST KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO DEFEND PERFECTLY

HAVE YOU THROWN EVERYTHING YOU HAVE BACK AT THEM?

AH

THEY DON'T HAVE ANY DOUBTS.

IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE PROUD OF THE WAY THEY FIGHT WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT. UNLIKE US EIGHTH GRADERS, MOST OF THE PLAYERS AT IWA TECH ARE NINTH GRADERS WHO WON'T GET A SHOT AT THIS NEXT YEAR. THEY'VE PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO THIS GAME

SEND THE BALL BACK!

KAORU

TUP

JOSUI IS BRINGING BACK THE BALL BUT IWA TECH SN'T TAK NG THE BAIT THEY'RE STUCK N FRONT OF THE GOAL.

TWEEE

JOSUI, KICK OFF!

WE HAVE TO SCORE

OTHER-WISE HIROYOSH WILL

SHOOM

JOSUI'S ON THE ATTACK!

THEY'LL DEFEND TH S ONE POINT LEAD TO THE VERY LAST!

IWA TECH S DUG IN TO DEFEND AS ALWAYS.

SHOOM

Y. YES

POOT

DASH

DAICHI ?!

SHOOM

THE WIND IS BLOWING FROM BEHIND IT 'AN BE DONE

WE SWITCHED GOALS AT THE HALF

WHAT'S HE TH NK NG OF DOING?

FOOOOOM

MY TARGET IS...

...THERE!

TSK, NOTHING IS EASY

NO! FALSE ALARM!!

IT'S CURVING TO THE RIGHT.

IT'S HEADING OVER THE LINE!

SHOOM

WHOOSH

MAN!

!

WE'LL JUST CLEAR IT.

IT'S USELESS TO KICK IT DOWN HERE.

WHOOSH

THE BALL IS HEADING FOR THE GOAL!

OOPS, DID IT CATCH THE WIND?

WHAT A PLAY! THE BALL IS STILL ALIVE!!

BOOM

KEEP IT ALIVE!

WHOOSH

WHA ...?

WHUMP

I'LL GET IT IN WITH THE POWER OF MY WILL!

I WON'T LET IT DIE!

CLEAR IT!

I'LL KEEP THIS BALL ALIVE!

SHŌ ?!

THIS...

NO MATTER WHAT!

THIS BALL DAICHI KICKED TO SAVE HIROYOSHI ..

. WILL NOT BE WASTED!

STAGE.60 On Happiness

BOOM

THUMPA

THUMPA

SWACK

THUMPA

FOOMP

DENIED! THE KEEPER CAUGHT IT SECURELY!

DANG I'M AN IDIOT!

NYAOW!

AHHHH ALMOST

LOOKS LIKE IT'S BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD!!

FOOMP

THEY'RE ON THE ATTACK!

TSK.

GET BACK!

STAGE.60 On Happiness

TO BE ONE OF THEM...

SIZZLE

CLENCH

...THE TEAM CIRCLE !!

I WANT TO JOIN ...

SHOOM

OOPS, JOSUI'S KEEPER IS COMING OUT!

IF THE GOAL IS LOCKED, YOU NEED TO USE THE LONG BALL TO BREAK IT OPEN

THE REST OF IWA TECH, ALL NINE PLAYERS, STILL SIT TIGHT IN FRONT OF THE GOAL

BUT THERE'S NO OPENING!

THE BALL IS SENT TO THE CENTER WHERE A STRIKER IS WAITING!

FOOOM

9

BEFORE NO. 9 OF IWA TECH COULD REACH IT, IT'S SENT BACK TO THE FRONT-LINE!

!

PUNCH

NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, I WILL BREAK IT OPEN!

GOAL

IF YOU CAN LOFT ONE BALL AFTER THE OTHER FROM OUTSIDE THE PENALTY AREA, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE IT

GOAL

WHEN THEY PLUG UP THE GOAL, THE SPACE IN THIS AREA TENDS TO FREE UP

SPACE

DRAW THEM OUT, THEN LAUNCH THE SECOND AND THIRD ATTACKS.

SPACE

GOTTA BREAK OPEN THE LOCK

OTHER-WISE, JOSU! WON'T WIN!

10

FLIP

SHOOM

ATTACK...

DASH

DASH-DASH

SWAP

WHAAT ?!

ATTACK.. WITHOUT MERCY!

HE'S GONNA SHOOT

FIND THE NET!

UM F

WHOOSH

BIP

BREAK IT OPEN!

WHOOSH

ATTACK..

ATTACK..

VIP

SHOOT

BOOMP

...WE MAKE YOU PAY!

SMACK

NO 9 FOLLOWED THE HEADER!

BUT THE KEEPER SMOTHERED IT!

SHOOM

WHOOPH

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

SPAP

ERGH!

GET IN THERE!

CRUNCH

POINT

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

FWISH

I'LL BREAK IT AND SCORE NO MATTER WHAT!

...I WANT TO BREAK UP THAT TIGHT DEFENSE!

I WONDER IF WE SHOULD STICK WITH THIS STRATEGY.

SHŌ KAZA-MATSURI

SHOULD WE SIMPLY PROTECT A ONE-GOAL ADVANTAGE?

HUH?

INCREDIBLE.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

THEY'RE NOT CRUMBLING THEY'RE HOLD ON, NO MATTER HOW FAR WE GO

IWA TECH IS INCREDIBLE!

I COULDN'T TELL WHETHER IWA TECH IS STRONG OR WEAK

THEY'RE STRONG, YUKI.

IWA TECH ISN'T WEAK AT ALL

THAT'S WHY.

I LEARNED THE HARD WAY DURING THE MUSASHINOMORI MATCH HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO DEFEND THE WHOLE GAME

INTENSE FOCUS IS REQUIRED TO DEFEND.

...WE WERE PROUD OF THE WAY WE PLAYED

THE REASON WHY ..WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO PLAY WITHOUT SHAME EVEN WHEN EVERYONE MADE FUN OF OUR TACTICS. IS BECAUSE

FORGET THE OWN GOAL. I WANT TO WIN WITH A GOAL WE SCORE!

...I WANT TO TRY TO SCORE AGAIN DURING THE LAST FIVE MINUTES

NO MATTER ...

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THEM IN THE THREE YEARS I'VE PLAYED

THEY DON'T GIVE UP THEY FIGHT LIKE CORNERED ANIMALS.

HOW MANY TIMES WE DESTROYED THEIR GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

I WANT TO WIN BY GOING ALL OUT AGAINST JOSUI.

IT WAS AN OWN GOAL

BUT WE DIDN'T EVEN SCORE

A GOAL IS A GOAL.

WHO CARES?

ISN'T THAT THE WAY WE FIGHT?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

. BUT

IT'S OKAY TO DEFEND THE REST OF THE GAME LIKE THIS.

THAT'S RIGHT FORCING AN OWN GOAL IS THE SAME AS SCORING OFF A DEFENDER'S MISTAKE

UM SURE

RIGHT CAPTAIN?

LET THEM SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT!

IF WE MANAGE TO EEK OUT A WIN.

I BET THEY'LL SAY WE WON BY LUCKY CHANCE.

ISN'T THAT THE POINT OF ALL THIS?

WHETHER YOU WIN OR LOSE ...

...IF YOU PLAY A GOOD GAME, THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.

BIP

SHOOM

BOOMP

HE'S PRESSURED LIKE A F.END S NCE THE FIRST HALF.

NO 9'S GOT A LOT OF GAS IN HS TANK

DASH

9

IF WE LOSE ..

IF WE LOSE THIS GAME ...

LET'S ATTACK LKE IDIOTS AND LEAVE OUR GOAL W DE OPEN'

INSTEAD OF PLAYING IT SAFE AND TESTING HOW FAR OUR STRATEGY CAN TAKE US

...THIS WILL BE OUR LAST GAME.

9

BUT I AM OLDER THAN YOU. AND I KNOW WHICH PLAN HAS A BETTER CHANCE OF MAKING YOU HAPPY

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHICH PLAN IS BETTER BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW SQUAT ABOUT SOCCER STRATEGY

TAP TAP

SCRUNCH

9...

TEN MORE SECONDS UNTIL THE LAST FIVE MINUTES.

KEEP AT IT, JOSUI!

C'MON, MOVE!

POONT

6

5

4

3

2

1

FLIP

ZERO!

SHOOM

MIGHTY KICK

GET IT DONE, SHŌ!

BOOOMP

DEFEND! IWA TECH!

GO ON

SHEEEE

HIRO-YOSHI!!

WHOA, IWA TECH IS ON THE MOVE!

BOOMF

NO...

STAGE.61 Time to Go

AFTER ALL...

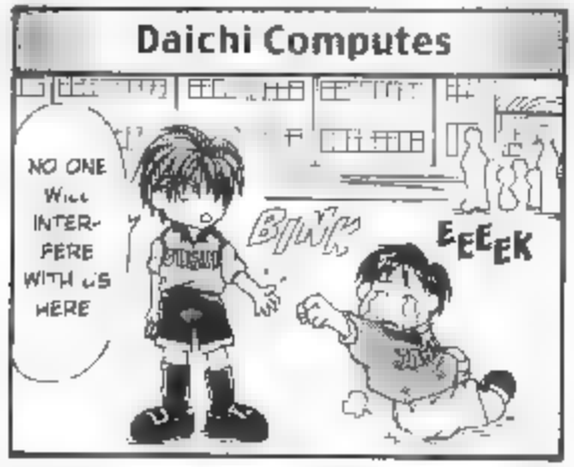
I WANT TO JOIN THE CIRCLE.

WHISTLE! THEATRE

MANGA BY SEKI. ASSISTANTS

DID YOU KNOW 72% OF THE SOCCER PLAYERS AT IWA TECH ARE MADE OF SPECIAL ALLOY? ACCORDING TO THE EX-CAPTAIN, HONMA.
CLANK CLANK
CLANK
MESO
AIKO

Daichi Computes



YOU SUCK THAT WON'T DO. IF YOU WANT TO QUIT, YOU'RE NOT GOOD EITHER. UMM... ISN'T THERE A BETTER WAY TO SAY IT? AH, THIS IS IT! NO, NO, NO SOMETHING ANYTHING!! AH, A BUTTERFLY NO, NO THE TIME FOR THAT!!
NOW HOW SHOULD I BEGIN
WHIRR
CLICK
BIKE BIKE
CLICK

IWA TECH HAS LAUNCHED A LONG BALL LIKE THE R ATTACK IN THE FIRST HALF.

THIS TIME ...

... WILL HE CLEAR IT?!

I'LL AIM FOR SAME SPOT THAT MADE HIM GET THE OWN GOAL DURING THE FIRST HALF!

IT'S A WICKED DEVELOPMENT FOR JOSUI!

IWA TECH, ON DEFENSE ALL HALF, HAS LAUNCHED A SURPRISE ATTACK!

FIVE MINUTES REMAINING IN THE LAST HALF!

STAGE.61 Time to Go

THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN RELIVING A FAILURE.

BIP

NOT BY CHANCE, BUT WITH SKILL, WE'LL SCORE A GOAL!

THE AVERAGE PERSON WILL FREAK OUT AND CHOKE.

THAT'S WHEN I'LL SHOOT!

THAT'S THE STRATEGY OF IWA TECH!

ATTACK THEIR WEAKNESSES. MAKE THEM CRUMBLE.

IT WAS BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRUST HIROYOSHI.

WHY DID WE END UP WITH AN OWN GOAL?

THAT'S WHY I CALLED FOR THE BALL

KEEPER!

THAT'S WHY I CHARGED THE BALL

I'LL TRUST HIROYOSHI

I'LL *TRUST* MY DEFENDERS!

SHŌ...

IF YOU WANT TO BE TRUSTED YOU NEED TO TRUST OTHERS FIRST

I WILL NOT GO FORWARD

I TRUST YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THAT BALL

. AND I'LL PREPARE FOR THE NEXT MOVE.

WHISH

IT'S NO GOOD!

AFTER ALL, I...

THUMPA THUMPA THUMPA

!?

THUMPA

THAT'S WHY...

EVEN IF I MAKE A MISTAKE, MY TEAMMATES WILL BACK ME UP!

JOSUI NO. 4 CLEARED PERFECTLY THIS TIME! BUT IWA TECH STILL HAS THE BALL!

WHUMP

I'M NOT ALONE OUT HERE!

SHOOM

ZOOP

EVEN IF I FAIL, HIDEOMI AND

WHISH

FOOM

RHAAAAAA!

I GET IT NOW!

OF COURSE!

...I CAN DO!

NO 4 IS SLIDING!

DAICHI IS ALWAYS THERE

THAT'S WHY I CAN DEFEND WITHOUT RESERVATION!

IT'S NOT JUST LUCK! WE'LL SCORE A POINT THROUGH SKILL ALONE!

EVEN IF THEY PASS BY ME

DASH

DASH

BOOMP

NO. 9 SHOOTS !!

DASH

DASH

KAORU ARE THERE!

...ON THE FIELD, I AM PART OF A TEAM.

I WAS THINKING ONLY OF MYSELF

BOOP

WHETHER I HAVE TALENT OR NOT..

IS TO DO WHATEVER

MY ROLE..

BECAUSE OF YOUR EFFORTS, HE WAS FORCED INTO A WEAK SHOT.

I DIDN'T EXPECT THEIR TEAM-WORK TO IMPROVE THIS FAST!

BECAUSE HE'S THERE. THEY CAN DEFEND BOLDLY

EVEN IF THEY MAKE MISTAKES, BECAUSE HE'S THERE. IT'LL ALL WORK OUT OKAY

DA-ICHI!!

THAT'S WHAT A TEAM DOES!!

INDEED.

TEAM-MATES MAKES SOCCER FUN.

PLAYING WITH.

SMACK

WE MAKE UP FOR EACH OTHER'S WEAKNESS.

?

BUT AFTER IWA TECH'S ATTACK, EVERYONE SHOULD'VE GONE BACK TO DEFEND ...

JOSUI'S KEEPER HAS SWIFTLY FED BACK TO THE FRONT-LINE.

I CANNOT FAIL!

THERE! THE NO. 9 IS AT THE FRONT-LINE!

I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT KATSURŌ WAS SAYING.

THIS IS THE DEFENSE'S ANSWER !!

BOO

OM

TAKE THIS!

HEADS UP, STRIKERS!!

THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE FOR A GOAL THAT CAN CHANGE THE FLOW OF THE GAME!

WHOOSH

GRAB

IF I CAN'T MAKE IT I WON'T SHIFT THE MOMENTUM.

IWA TECH'S KEEPER IS CHARGING, AND IT'S ONE-ON-ONE!! BUT HE CAN'T USE HIS HANDS OUTSIDE THE PENALTY AREA!!

HIS LEGS MUST BE LIKE RUBBER WHAT AMAZING CONCENTRATION!

GO!! SHŌ!

LOOK AT THE SPEED!

MY LEGS ARE SHAKING AND WON'T WORK THE WAY I WANT.

HE'S CLOSING ON THE BALL.

THIS IS MY CHANCE!

BUT...

BOO

UNTIL THE BITTER END!!

OMP

OOPS! THEY COLLIDED, AND THE BALL FLEW OFF!

SHŌ!

SHŌ!!

I WON'T GIVE UP!

IT'S NOT OVER YET

NOT YET

FUMP

CHUK THNK

WOBBLE

BOOP

Bip

Bip

Bip

ROOAA RR

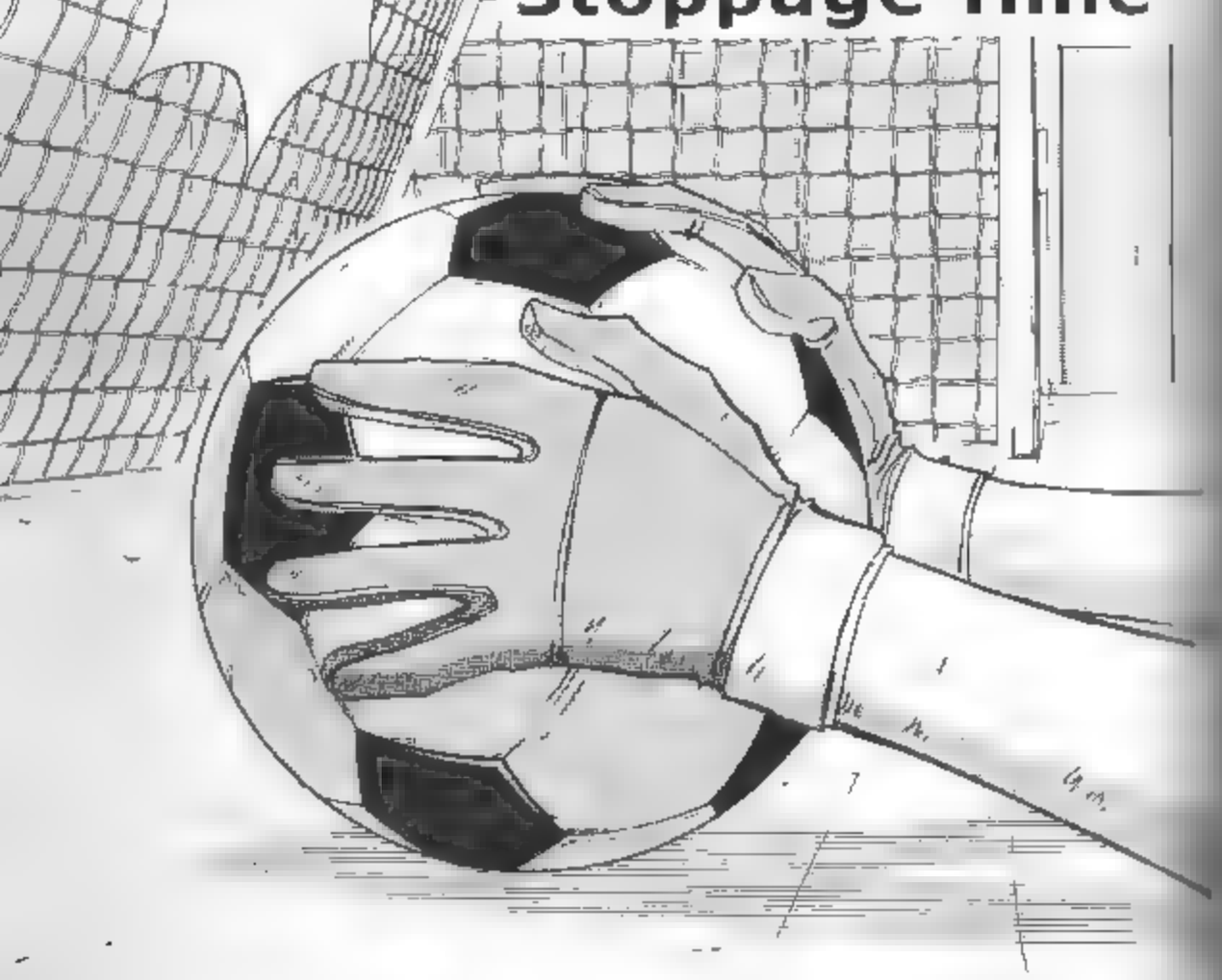
WHUMP

SHOOM

RIGHT BEFORE THE END OF THE GAME, JOSUI NO. 9 SCORED THE EQUALIZER THROUGH SHEER WILL POWER!!

IT...IT'S IN!!

STAGE.62
Stoppage Time



IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT. ALL IT DID WAS TO BRING US BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED.
CAPTAIN
DON'T BE UPSET, NIMO!

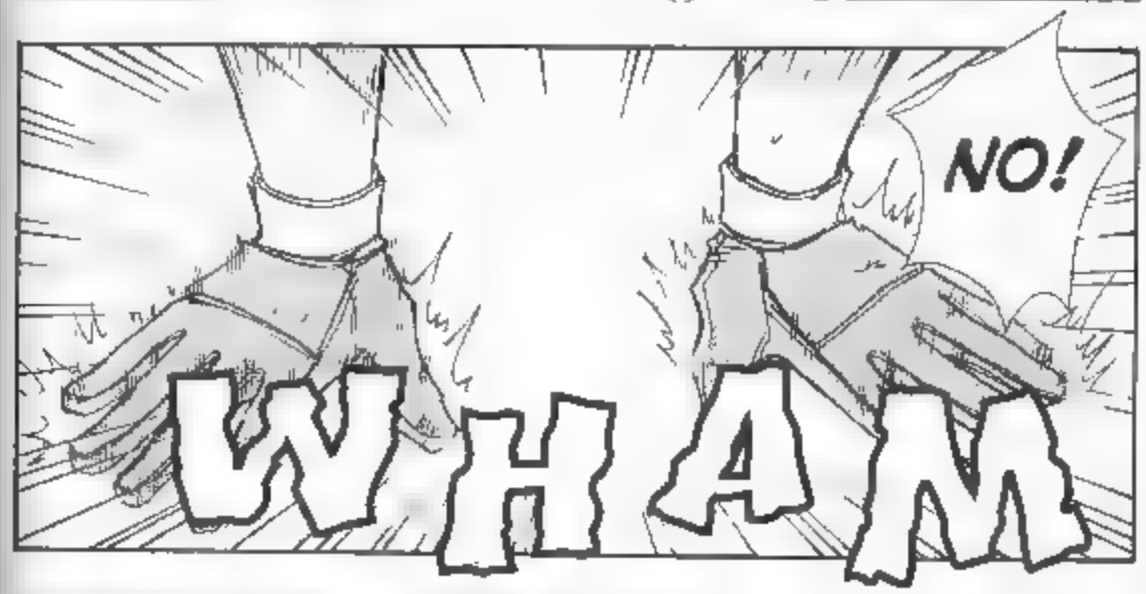
OOP.
WOBBLE
WHUMP
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THEM IN THE THREE YEARS I'VE PLAYED.

SHUP

STAGGER

GOT IT!
AH...

O...


NO!
WHAM

WE COULDN'T HAVE TIED
THAT'S RIGHT
IF INA TECH HADN'T LAUNCHED AN ATTACK

WE CAN'T JUST SIT ON OUR BUTTS

...EITHER.

THAT'S WHY THEY LAUNCHED THEIR STRIKE

IF I WERE IN THEIR POSITION, I WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME.

WHAAT?! HOW COME?

TAKE A BREATHER AND WATCH US BEAT THESE GUYS.

ZOINK

WAVE WAVE

AH

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.

I MEAN, WHY DO WE EVEN BOTHER HAVING TWO STRIKERS?

I'M SORRY, I...

FLUSH

AH...

DON'T GET A BIG HEAD.

OUCH.

SPAP

WHO'S THE ONE WHO'S BEEN PLAYING SOCCER ALONE?

HEY EVERY-BODY!

HOWEVER THEY SCORED DEFENDING ALL THE WAY THROUGH 5 ALSO A FINE STRATEGY

THAT SAVED US, BUT

WHEN THEY WERE UP BY ONE, WHY DID THEY LAUNCH AN ATTACK?

..I SUPPOSE THERE WAS SOMETHING EATING AT THEM.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND BUT

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MADE THEM DO THAT ...

THROWING THAT AWAY, THEY LAUNCHED A STRIKE FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE END.

ALL IT DID WAS TO BRING US BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED

STOOP

WE HAVEN'T LOST YET

CAPTAIN?

WHAT COUNTS IS WHAT HAPPENS NOW.

YEAH.

THE CAPTAIN

IT WILL BE RUDE IF WE DON'T ANTE UP, TOO.

THEY'VE GOT THEIR SOULS RIDING ON THIS GAME.

WE SHOULD'VE DEFENDED THE WAY YOU SAID.

IT'S JUST THAT JOSUI'S NO. 9 IS RELENTLESS

NO. YOU WERE RIGHT

10

POINT

THE LONG BALL IS SENT TOWARD THE GOAL.

THEY'RE GOING FOR IT!

BOOMP

BUT JOSUI'S NO. 8 CLEARS!

FOOM

NOT FAR ENOUGH, THOUGH!

IWA TECH BRINGS IT BACK TO THE FRONTLINE!

I GET IT, NOW

.WANTS TO WIN BY GOING ALL OUT

GET FIRED UP

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO

THAT KIND OF PLAY

AFTER WITNESSING

JOSUI, IT'S A CRUCIAL MOMENT

IF THE GAME ISN'T SETTLED IN STOPPAGE TIME, WE'LL GO TO EXTENDED TIME AND THE FIRST TEAM TO SCORE WINS.

GOOD LUCK IWA TECH.

IWA TECH KICKS OFF.

TWEE

STOPPAGE TIME IS TWO MINUTES.

FOOM

10

IWA TECH ATTACKS WITH ALL TEN.

JOSUI DEFENDS WITH ALL TEN.

BOOMP

BUT THIS TIME, THE NO. 4 CLEARS!

IT'S OVER THE GOAL LINE!

IWA TECH CORNER KICK!!

BIP

WHOOSH

MISS IT! MISS IT! MISS IT!

JOSUI IS IN A PINCH!

HERE COMES AN IWA TECH SET PLAY! CAN THEY BEND IT IN!?

WE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS. AND DELIVER SOME PAYBACK

FOCUS!

BE FOCUSED!

SHOOM

STOPPAGE TIME IS ALMOST UP!

BOTH SIDES CHASE DOWN THE BALL!

RUMBLE

VOOP

KEEPER CATCHES IT!

WHIISH

GO!!

JOSUI'S NO. 10 PICKED MY POCKET!

NO. 10!

THAT LITTLE ...

DASH

AH.

WHOOSH

BUT WHILE THE NO. 10 IS DOWN, IWA TECH'S DEFENDERS RETURN.

THE REFEREE LET IT PASS

SLIDE TACKLE FROM BEH.ND!

I WON'T LET YOU!

WHOOSH

SKKRR

6

IWA TECH GETS THE F RST TOUCH!

DIP

SWI

WE WILL...

SH

BALL'S GONE ?!

6

HUH?

SHOOP

22

NO WAY ...

20

DO IT!

BOOM

BACK PASS ?!

WHA ...?

DASH

NO. 9 HEADS FOR THE BALL! BUT IWA TECH'S TWO DEFENDERS MAY MARK HIM.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING! 30 SECONDS LEFT!

24

IS HE SENDING THE BALL BACK?!

27

AT THIS POINT, NO 10 TURNS BACK!

SPIN

17

18

POUNCE

FOOMP

19

SHIGE!

BIP

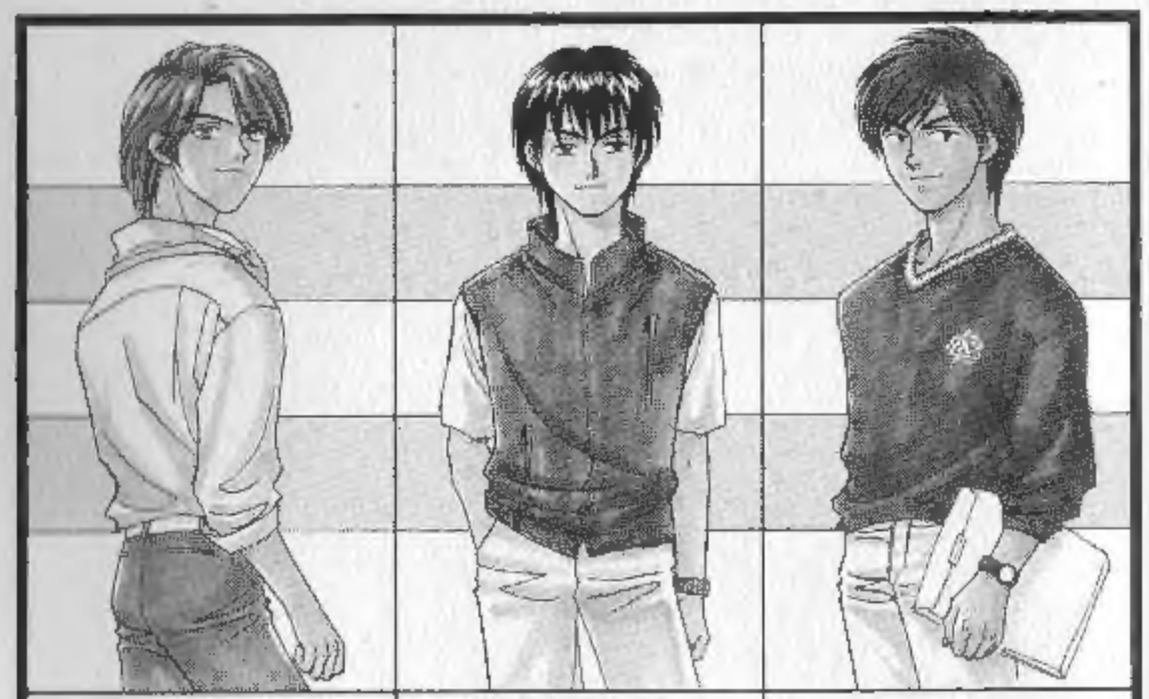
ROOAR

JOSUI TURNED THE TABLES IN THE FINAL SECONDS!!

GOAL !!

IT'S NOT OVER!!

KICK



Eighth Place: Kō Kazamatsuri 303 Votes	Seventh Place: Akira Mikami 330 Votes	Sixth Place: Katsurō Shibusawa 1,331 Votes

The rest are:

11th Place: Takumi Sakai
12th Place: Yūsuke Morinaga
13th Place: Soujū Matsushita
14th Place: Tōgo Amamiya
15th Place: Yūko Katori
16th Place: Imai-kun of Kokubu Second Junior High
17th Place: Yasuto Negishi
18th Place: Shigeru Mamiya
19th Place: Coach Kirihara
Ex-captain Honma
21st Place: Sakamoto of Kokubu Second Junior High
22nd Place: Masato Takai
23rd Place: Hiroyoshi Noro Oyassan
25th Place: Tomoyuki Yamakawa
Ryōhei Tatsumi
Captain of Kokubu Second Junior High
28th Place: Seiya Amano
29th Place: Kazue Miyuki Sakurai

Tenth Place: Ryoichi Tenjo 264 Votes	Ninth Place: Yuki Kojima 301 Votes

WE ALSO RECEIVED VOTES FOR EVEN THE MINOR CHARACTERS LIKE "GANGS OF KUZU HIGH," "MADAM IN THE FIRST EPISODE," AND "SOCCER RICE BALL." THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

First Round
Results of Character Popularity Votes

Well, on behalf of my characters, I would like to express my gratitude.

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT NOTIFIED RESPONDENTS IN DETAIL, THANK YOU FOR VOTING FOR VARIOUS CHARACTERS IN THOUGHTFUL POSTCARDS. COUNTING MALE VOTES ONLY, SHŌ TAKES FIRST PLACE, BUT WHEN WE INCLUDE FEMALE VOTES, HIS OVERALL SCORE GOES DOWN TO THIRD PLACE, WHICH IS INTERESTING. THAT'S VERY MUCH LIKE ***WHISTLE!*** I WAS GLAD THAT RYOICHI, WHOM I THOUGHT WAS DESPISED, GOT 10TH PLACE AND THAT YUKI AT NINTH PLACE RECEIVED A LOT OF FEMALE SUPPORT. I HEARD SHŌ MIGHT (OR MIGHT NOT) TRY TO GET FIRST PLACE IN THE NEXT ROUND... ANYWAY, BEST WISHES, AS ALWAYS!!

This author's comment was included when the results were released in Weekly Shonen Jump. (It's a bonus!)

HEY AMERICAN WHISTLE! FANS!
THIS POPULARITY CONTEST SURVEYED JAPANESE READERS. WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ***WHISTLE!*** CHARACTER? LET US KNOW AT:

WHISTLE! C/O ***SHONEN JUMP***
P.O. BOX 77010
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107

LEGENDZ™

Ken learns there's real danger in Legendz!

ONLY $7.99 EACH!

Vol 1-3
On sale Nov. 8!

Vol 1-2 on sale now!

viz media

On Sale at:
www.shonenjump.com
Also available at your local bookstore, comic store and Suncoast Motion Picture Company

COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE 888-266-4226

ALL AGES

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVELS

LEGENDZ © 2001 by Makoto Raiku. Biz Hirai/SHUEISHA Inc. © 2005 VIZ

Next in Whistle!

RAIN CATS AND DOGS

Shô finds out a secret about Tatsuya's family that not even Tatsuya knows about! Soon the conflict of interest turns into a conflict on the field. Matching the stormy moods on the team, the weather takes a turn for the worse, and Josui's players must overcome muddy fields and bad attitudes if they hope to achieve victory in the most important game of the district tournament!

Available November 2005!